United Nations A/57/797

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 April 2003

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 112
Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Financial situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The General Assembly, in its decision 57/580, requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly before the end of its resumed fifty-seventh session on the financial situation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), including the status of voluntary contributions to meet the resource requirements necessary to ensure its viability and to consider an additional charge against the contingency fund, as an additional provision to the Institute for core activities in 2003.

It is anticipated that the resources available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund will allow the operations of the Institute to continue at a minimal level until the end of November 2003. In order to sustain the Institute's operations through 31 December 2003, an additional $100,000 would be required. It is proposed that the Secretary-General report further on the financial situation of INSTRAW to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.

* The delayed submission of the present report is due to the extensive consultations required for its finalization.

03-33314 (E) 020503

I. Introduction

1. In its decision 57/580 of 20 December 2002 on the future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the General Assembly:

(a) Approved, in the context of the consolidated statement of programme budget implications, a charge in the amount of $250,000 against the contingency fund to finance core activities of the Institute, defined as the salaries and common staff costs of the four Professional posts currently in the staffing table;

(b) Decided that an amount of $250,000 would be set aside in the contingency fund for the current biennium as an additional provision to the Institute for core activities in 2003, which brought the total amount to $500,000, pending firm pledges and/or payments of voluntary contributions necessary for the viable operation of the Institute;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, before the end of its resumed fifty-seventh session on the financial situation of the Institute, including the status of voluntary contributions vis-à-vis the resources required to ensure its viability, and to consider the additional charge against the contingency fund referred to in subparagraph (a) above.

2. The present report is submitted in compliance with that decision.

II. Current administrative and financial arrangements and the financial situation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

3. In accordance with General Assembly decision 57/580, $250,000 was transferred to the INSTRAW Trust Fund in January 2003, as a result of which the balance of the Trust Fund amounted to $687,780. This amount is sufficient to finance the operations of the Institute, including eight posts (one D-2, one P-3, two P-2 or P-1 and four General Service) and related operating expenses through 31 May 2003.

4. During the 2002 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held at New York on 5 November 2002, $11,136 was pledged to the INSTRAW Trust Fund for 2003. None of the contributions pledged has been received at the time of writing.

5. During the first four months of 2003, the total income of the INSTRAW Trust Fund has amounted to $138,919, including $127,925 of Government contributions and $10,994 in miscellaneous income from other sources, including interest income.

6. On this basis, and taking into account that the Director of the Institute will be appointed as from 1 May 2003, it is estimated that the INSTRAW Trust Fund balance as at 31 May 2003 will amount to approximately $481,900. This amount is sufficient for maintaining INSTRAW operations, including the payment of eight staff salaries, until the end of November 2003. It is also anticipated that an

additional amount of $100,000 would be needed to maintain the Institute through 31 December 2003, as shown in the table below:

Financial situation of the Institute in 2003

(United States dollars)

Beginning balance		687 781
Costs for operations (excluding Director and fund-raising travel)		795 900
Subtotal		**(108 119)**
Income		
Government contributions	127 925	
Miscellaneous income	10 994	
Subtotal		**138 919**
Approximate cost for a Director from May to December		116 800
Approximate cost for fund-raising travel		14 000
Subtotal		**(130 800)**
Projected closing balance for 2003		**(100 000)**

7. The resources available in the INSTRAW Trust Fund would support the operations of the Institute until the end of November 2003. In order to sustain the Institute's operations until 31 December 2003, an additional amount of $100,000 would be required.

III. Conclusion

8. **At this stage, it is not possible to be definitive as to any contributions that might be made subsequent to the issuance of the present report. Under the circumstances, the General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report and request the Secretary-General to report further on the financial situation of the Institute at its fifty-eighth session.**